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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AT COLOGNE

BECAUSE of some unforeseen changes in German holidays, made by the Department of Education, Sister Agnes was obliged to notify us that the date, August 12, would have to be changed. This word did not reach us in time to prevent the 12th from being announced in our JOURNALS. Since then we have waited to **get** the last word before **taking** up congress matters again, and this explains the silence that **suddenly** fell upon international news. The date is now set for August 4.

Sister Agnes has really had more than any one person should be allowed to do, in the past and present year, and how she gets through with it all is a mystery. Last summer she translated the second volume of "A History of Nursing," and finished correcting the proofs in a perfect whirl of organization work; she had the general direction of the German Nurses' Conference and Exhibit at Dresden; has another similar, but even more detailed and exacting meeting and exhibit, with programme to arrange, in connection with the National Council of Women this spring; carried through an important joint gathering in Berlin, has made and must keep on making tours to one part and another of the empire to speak and organize and conduct propaganda for the nursing cause, and in the midst of all deals with a crushing burden of personal problems that people bring to her from all over. Then, too, she has gone once and must go again to Cologne to make personally all the many arrangements.

American nurses, of course, cannot hope to get special steamer rates, as there are not enough who will promise to go and come together to make it possible. Steamers already are filled, and prices are high, which is much to be deplored.

As has been said, the programme will specialize on new lines of work, a considerable part of the time being given to this. We shall not have, from the different countries, the general kind of reports previously called for, as we now know pretty well the affairs in general in other lands than our own, but each country will send one paper covering its full progress in "social service" or "public service" nursing, which is really the

coming development of nursing on the lines looking toward health-saving, as foreseen by Miss Nightingale.

On educational lines we shall begin with the first reports of the International Education Committee, as planned by Mrs. Robb and her committee, in the year of the last congress. These reports deal with preparatory teaching in training schools, and will be grouped and presented by Miss Hubrecht, of Holland, whom Mrs. Robb had made secretary of the committee. At each congress the next higher stage of nursing education will be thus studied internationally, and efforts made to agree upon a universal "minimum," so that we may all presently speak that "international nursing language" which Mrs. Robb hoped we would learn. Countries where registration is in force will send reports on its practical working and efficiency, and other topics, too, will be considered, which will be timely and helpful in the present state of German nursing problems.

ITEMS

MISS NIGHTINGALE'S executors have advertised for letters or other material to be placed in their hands for use in a memoir, and we may now hope that a full and authoritative life of that remarkable woman shall shortly appear. It is now decided that a statue of Miss Nightingale shall be erected in Waterloo Place, London.

THE *Australasian Nurses' Journal* has been giving some very interesting pages of early pioneer nursing in Australian hospitals,—the work of Miss Osborn and her associates, the first Nightingale nurses,—and of their first graduates, whose achievements were equally splendid. Only forty years ago, and yet the hospital conditions are described as being horrible as those of prisons in the Dark Ages!

MISS ISLA BLOMFIELD, who came to the Buffalo Congress in 1901 from Australia, has been appointed sanitary inspector in Sydney by the City Council. She has had much valuable training and experience to fit her for this post.

THE Irish nurses, through their secretary, Miss Carson-Rae, a most able and stanch, sensible woman, are protesting vigorously against the introduction into Ireland of an order of three-months trained women to act as nurses for the sick poor. Miss Carson-Rae justly says: "Those who propose to employ partially trained women take upon themselves a heavy burden of responsibility, for the mistakes which occur from unskilled labor not only endanger but may cost life." As she rightly adds,

the whole question is one of money, and this pressure toward a low-priced, untrained "nurse" is one that is felt in every part of our money-governed so-called civilization.

THE Third Volume of History has been brought to a standstill by the unavoidable delay of some foreign material for which it is waiting. It had been expected that it would appear this spring, but it is still possible that it may be finished by the time of the Cologne Congress. The editor regrets the delay, and hopes nurses will not forget all about its coming. The different countries are dealt with separately, each one's story being distinct, and the radiating influence of Miss Nightingale is very wonderfully shown in the early steps of each attempt at nursing reformation. Hers was indeed a rare destiny. The editor believes the third volume will be valuable to nurses and trusts they will buy it in large numbers, as its royalties are all to go to the International Treasury and so to benefit the cause of nursing in general.

THE English and German nurses, together, will give the Nursing Pageant, in Cologne, which was so beautiful and successful in England. This alone will be worth going over for, especially as it will be shown in a superb mediæval hall, perfectly restored, the Gürzenich, where the congress meetings are to be held.

Nursing Notes for February has a very appreciative editorial on the advanced work for nurses at Teachers' College. It says: "The modern woman . . . wants to study her profession from the sociological, from the psychological standpoint, as a branch of social service, and if she cannot do this she will take to some other line of work. . . ."

La Garde-Malade Hospitalière for January has an exceedingly interesting account written by Dr. Lande himself, of his efforts to place trained nurses in the public schools. He has now succeeded in his determination, upon offering to relieve the city government of any financial obligation. The nurse will enter the schools, there, as here, paid by altruistic efforts, to make a demonstration. We have no doubt at all it will be as successful in Bordeaux as in New York, and offer Dr. Lande our sincere appreciation.

AN English nurse writes to the *British Journal of Nursing* that she is not a member of any league because, though trained in a very large hospital, the graduate nurses are not organized; that she dare not belong to the Society for State Registration because "our matron and

committee do not approve of it," and that "when the International Congress was held in London we were not permitted to take any part in it—and unless one risks one's livelihood one has just to grin and bear it." American nurses will hardly be able to credit such conditions. Though we know that such intimidation does exist, however, we believe this nurse would surprise herself by the good results of showing a little more spirit, if she would but try. Petty despots are always cowards, and our advice to the nurse is: "Dare to revolt!" She will find that submission to tyranny only makes her lot worse.

THERE will be a nursing exhibit at Cologne, and societies of nurses are asked to send their literature, magazines, photographs, charts, and anything else that they can supply.

The English Leagues have their own flags, which they will take, and we suggest that the American Nurses' Association might well adopt and send its distinctive flag.